said method comprising providing a first and a second connector application (5a, 6a) for permitting said first server computer (112) access to a copy of said first connector application (5a) and for permitting said second server computer (122) access to a copy of said second connector application (6a);

wherein said copies of said first and said second connector application (5a, 6a) each comprises a connection agreement (8, 12) for a first work task (7) of a first workflow instance (18) encompassed by said first workflow management system application (3);

which copy of said first connector application (5a) further comprises a first mapping table (9) including a first service terminology (9a) and a common terminology (9b, 13b), and which copy of said second connector application (6a) further comprises a second mapping table (13) including a second service terminology (13a) and said common terminology (9b, 13b);

said first work task (7) being transposed by said first mapping table (9) from said first service terminology (9a) into an input data set (ip1, ip2) in said common terminology (9b, 13b);

said input data set (ip1, ip2) being marshalled to said second server computer (122) over a common connection (17), and said marshalled input data set (ip1, ip2) being transposed to a second work task (15) by said second mapping table (13) from said common terminology (9b, 13b) into said second service terminology (13a), and said second work task (15) being processed by said second workflow management system application (4).

REMARKS

This AMENDMENT UNDER 37 CFR 1.111 is filed in reply to the outstanding Office Action of May 31, 2002, and is believed to be fully responsive thereto for reasons set forth below in greater detail.

Responsive to paragraphs 2 and 3 of the Official Action, the Abstract has been amended herein.

Responsive to paragraph 4 of the Official Action, a proposed correction to a formal drawing for Figure 1 is submitted herewith.

Responsive to paragraph 5, the paragraph at page 10, lines 4-26, has been corrected as the errors were in the text of the specification, not in the drawings.

Responsive to paragraph 6, a proposed drawing correction to Figure 2 is submitted herewith, and the paragraph extending between pages 12 and 13 has also been corrected.

Reconsideration is respectfully requested of the rejection of claims 1-18 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Bittinger, et al. (U.S.P. 5,754,774) in view of Tan, et al. (U.S.P. 6,314,469) AND Khan, et al. (U.S.P. 6,157,934).

Initially, the Tan, et al. U.S. Patent is not a valid reference against the subject patent application, and Tan, et al. formed a major part of the prior art rejection, as explained on pages 5, 6, 7 and 8 of the Official Action.

Tan, et al. (US 6,314,469) was filed one February 26. 1999. The priority date of the present patent application is November 17, 1998, i.e. before Tan, et al. Therefore Tan, et al. is not prior art against the present patent application. The Office Action stated that a certified priority copy has not been submitted to the USPTO. A certified priority copy has been ordered from the EPO and will be forwarded when received.

Moreover, the primary reference Bittinger, et al. (US 5,754,774), has nothing to do with workflow management applications.

Instead, as explained on col. 3, lines 10-52, Bittinger, et al. desires to take advantage of the installed user base of World Wide Web technology in a low speed communication environment such as wireless communications, using existing communication protocols and languages in a low speed or wireless communication system without requiring

modification of web browser or web server applications... Bittinger, et al. provides a method of increasing the performance of a web browser application resident on a first computer and communicating using the Hyper-Text Transfer Protocol (HTTP) with a web server application resident on a second computer remote from the first computer. At least one segment of the communication between the web browser application in the first computer and the web server application in the second computer occurs over an external communication link. The HTTP data stream corresponding to a communication originated by the web browser is intercepted prior to transmission of the HTTP data stream on the external communication link. The intercepted HTTP data stream originated by the web browser is converted from the HTTP protocol to a client/server specific communication protocol, and the converted web browser originated communication is transmitted to the second computer over the external communication link as a client/server specific data stream. The second computer receives the client/server specific data stream transmitted over the external communication link and reconstructs the HTTP data stream corresponding to the communication from the web browser from the client/server specific data stream received over the external communication link by converting the client/server specific data stream received in the client/server specific communication protocol to an HTTP data stream. The communication originated by the web browser is provided to the web server as an HTTP data stream.

Thus, Bittinger, et al. has nothing to do with workflow management applications, as explained in the present specification on pages 1-5.

The Bingham, et al. (U.S.P. 5,557,779) and Cheng, et al. (U.S.P. 5,881,232), references also have nothing to do with workflow management applications as explained in the present specification on pages 1-5.

Kahn, et al. (U.S.P 6,157,934) relates to a server/client architecture (one server computer = main server (cf. col. 2, line 2) and a plurality of client computers) where one workflow application is processed. In contrast thereto, the present invention relates to and provides an interface between different workflow management systems (first server computer 112 and second server computer 122), each connected to at least one client computer 111,

121, wherein further each different workflow management system has its own workflow management system application 3, 4 with an interaction between the different workflow management systems. Kahn, et al. does not disclose or discuss a similar interaction between the different workflow management systems.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification and claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned **"Version with markings to show changes made."**

This application is now believed to be in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference might expedite prosecution of this case, it is respectfully requested that he call applicant's attorney at (516) 742-4343.

Respectfully submitted,

William C. Roch
Registration No. 24,972

SCULLY, SCOTT, MURPHY & PRESSER
400 Garden City Plaza
Garden City, New York 11530
516-742-4343
WCR:ko/sf

"VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE"

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

The paragraph on page 10, lines 4-26 has been amended as follows.

Pg.10

Before a work task of a service requestor 1 can be outsourced to a service provider, several operations must be completed:

-an accord between a service requestor and a service provider must be established either verbally in written form or by some other means,

-a workflow template must be established in the service requestor's WfMS 3 with one of the workflow's sub-tasks representing a work task 7 to be outsourced,

-a workflow template 15 must be established in the service provider's WfMS 4 to represent the processing of the whole outsourced work task 7 [15],

-a connection agreement must be created and a copy is stored in the service requestor's Access Device at 8 and the service provider's Access Device at 12,

-mapping tables 9 and 13 describing how to map data items described in the workflow templates to data items described in the connection agreement are created and stored in the service requestor's Access Device 5 at 9 and the service provider's Access Device 6 at 13.

The paragraph extending between pages 12 and 13 has been amended as follows.

Pg. 12-13

The mapping table 9 of the service requestor maps the work task 7 from a first service terminology 9a into common terminology 9b. The result of this mapping are the input data ip1 and ip2, which are marshalled over the connection 17 to the mapping table 13 of the service provider. The mapping table 13 of the service provider maps the input data ip1, ip2 from the common terminology 13b to the second service terminology 13a for the work task 15 of the service provider. The result w01, w02 of the work task 15 of the service provider is

mapped by the mapping table 13 of the service provider from the second service terminology 13a to common terminology 13b. This mapped result comprises the output data op1, op2 which are marshalled to the mapping table 9 of the service requestor. This mapping table 9 maps the output data op1, op2 from common terminology 9b to the first service terminology 9a, which output data serve as a result of the outsourced work task 7.

The Abstract on page 22 and 23 has been amended as follows.

Pg.22-23

A method and a computer network for interconnecting a first server computer (112) of a service requestor (1) and a second server computer (122) of a service provider (2), each of the first server computer (112) and the second server computer (122) being connected to at least one client computer (111, 121), the first server computer (112) running a first workflow management system application (3), and the second server computer (122) running a second workflow management system application (4), the method comprising providing a first and a second connector application (5a, 6a) for permitting the first server computer (112) access to a copy of the first connector application (5a) and for permitting the second server computer (122) access to a copy of the second connector application (6a), wherein the copies of the first and the second connector application (5a, 6a) each comprises a connection agreement (8, 12) for a first work task (7) of a first workflow instance (18) encompassed by the first workflow management system application (3) [, which copy of the first connector application (5a) further comprises a first mapping table (9) including a first service terminology and a common terminology, and which copy of the second connector application (6a) further comprises a second mapping table (13) including a second service terminology and the common terminology, the first work task (7) being transposed by the first mapping table (9) from the first service terminology into an input data set in the common terminology, the input data set being marshalled to the second server computer (122) over a common connection (17), and the marshalled input data set being transposed to a second work task (15) by the second mapping table (13) from the common terminology into the second service terminology, and the second work task (15) being processed by the second workflow management system application (4)].

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claim 1 has been amended as follows to correct a minor error in reference numerals.

1. (Amended) A method of interconnecting a first server computer (112) of a service requestor (1) and a second server computer (122) of a service provider (2), each of said first server computer (112) and said second server computer (122) being connected to at least one client computer (111, 121);

said first server computer (112) running a first workflow management system application (3), and said second server computer (122) running a second workflow management system application (4);

said method comprising providing a first and a second connector application (5a, 6a) for permitting said first server computer (112) access to a copy of said first connector application (5a) and for permitting said second server computer (122) access to a copy of said second connector application (6a);

wherein said copies of said first and said second connector application (5a, 6a) each comprises a connection agreement (8, 12) for a first work task (7) of a first workflow instance (18) encompassed by said first workflow management system application (3);

which copy of said first connector application (5a) further comprises a first mapping table (9) including a first service terminology (9a) and a common terminology (9b, 13b), and which copy of said second connector application (6a) further comprises a second mapping table (13) including a second service terminology (13a) and said common terminology (9b, 13b);

said first work task (7) being transposed by said first mapping table (9) from said first service terminology (9a) into an input data set (ip1, ip2) in said common terminology (9b, 13b);

said input data set (ip1, ip2) being marshalled to said second server computer (122) over a common connection (17), and said marshalled input data set (ip1, ip2) being transposed to a second work task (15) by said second mapping table (13) from said common terminology (9b, 13b) into said second service terminology (13a) [(4a)], and said second work task (15) being processed by said second workflow management system application (4).

Heiko H. Ludwig, et al

FIG. 1

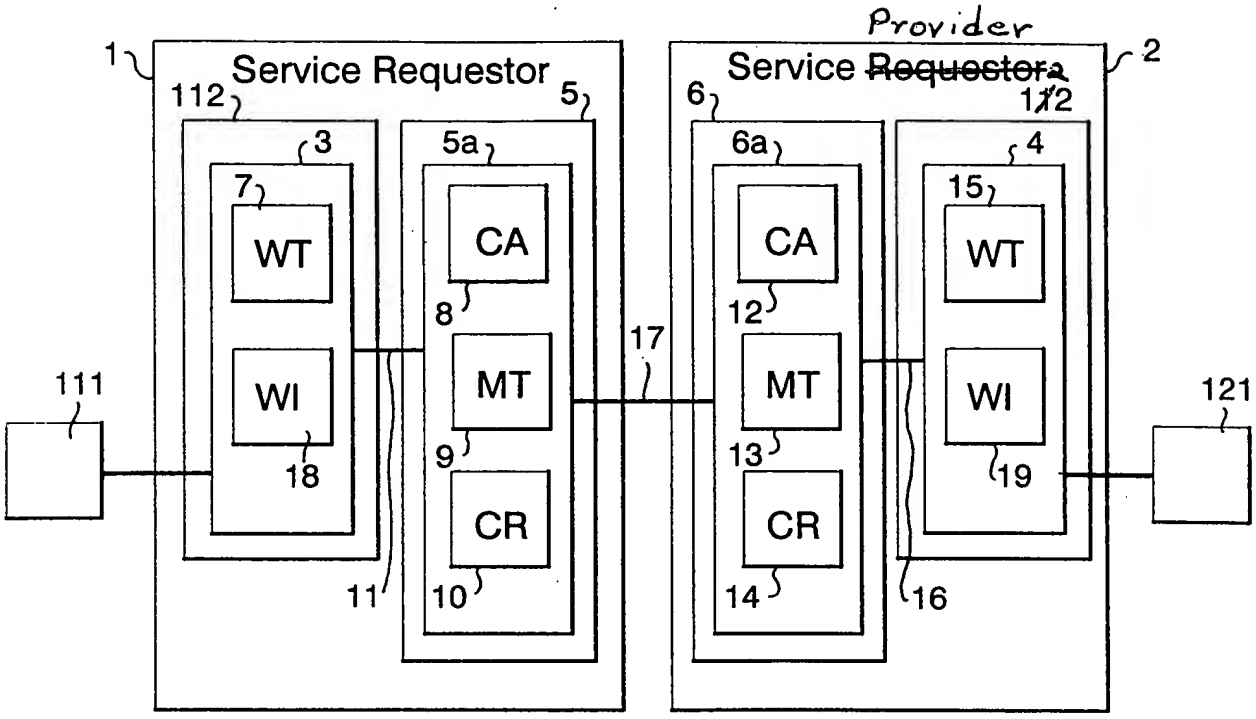

FIG. 2